

DECEMBER 2006

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WINTER WALKING GET YOUR EXERCISE INDOORS

THE WINTER WALKING CLUB WILL MEET **Tuesday mornings in February** at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S., and travel to a variety of Twin Cities’ malls and skyways for indoor walks. The group will board the bus at 8:30 a.m. and return at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided following the last walk on February 27. Cost is \$34. For more information, call 952-563-4949.



AWARD-WINNING PUBLICATIONS

CITY EARNS NATIONAL HONORS

BLOOMINGTON WAS RECENTLY HONORED with two awards in a national communications’ competition. The City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) presented its prestigious awards to the City in October. The City’s internal newsletter, the *Insider*, captured first-place in the category of internal newsletters, beating out Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Lenexa, Kansas. The *2005 Corporate Report to the Community* won a third place award in the category of annual reports.

ENERGY FAIR TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

LEARN HOW TO LOWER UTILITY BILLS and make your home more efficient at the Bloomington Energy Fair, **Saturday, February 3, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Get the latest on energy-saving light bulbs, energy audits, programmable thermostats, high-efficiency furnaces, project financing, tax incentives and preparing your home for winter. For more information, call Bryan Hartman at 952-563-8943, or e-mail bhartman@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

A ROOM WITH A VIEW BLOOMINGTON PARKS ARE BEAUTIFUL YEAR-ROUND

RESIDENT FAYE ROY, WHO WORKS FOR LEE PRODUCTS Company in Bloomington, took this beautiful snapshot of Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South.

“I am not a photographer. I just love the view out of our window here at work,” Roy said modestly. “I took photographs of the same view in all four seasons and winter was my favorite.”

An incredible one-third of Bloomington is dedicated to parks and open spaces. This beauty is part of what makes our community a desirable place to live, work and play. As Bloomington developed from a rural to urban community, the City began to create public parks and open spaces. The goal was to have a playlot, playground or park within walking distance of all residents. Today, almost 9,000 acres in Bloomington are parks and open spaces, of which almost 4,000 acres are City-owned. This past fall, Bloomington celebrated the opening of three more parks. *See page 6.*



WHAT’S NEW IN BLOOMINGTON REDEVELOPMENT AT FRANCE AVENUE AND OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD

THE INTERSECTION OF FRANCE AVENUE AND OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD HAS UNDERGONE A POSITIVE transformation over the last few years. The Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) assembled parcels to encourage private redevelopment that included the construction of a 4,000 square-foot retail building on the southeast quadrant of the intersection. A retail and office development is also underway on the northeast quadrant. *See below.*

Public improvements, including street widening, new turn lanes, sidewalks, signals, medians and landscaping, have also enhanced the area. Currently, private developers are working on a development plan for the southwest corner. For more information, call HRA Administrator Regina Harris at 952-563-8940.



A green space is located on the northwest corner.



THE POINT

A retail and office development is nearing completion at the northeast corner of France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road. The Point consists of an 18,000 square-foot building that faces France Avenue and an 8,000 square-foot building fronting Old Shakopee Road. *See right.* One of the tenants scheduled for the building is a Chipotle restaurant.

“The addition of a restaurant with outdoor seating, along with other retail, will add appeal and life to the intersection of France and Old Shakopee Road,” HRA Administrator Regina Harris said.

Completion is scheduled this winter.



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GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

THE IMPORTANCE OF SEALING UNUSED WELLS

By Mayor Gene Winstead

THE NATIONAL GROUND WATER Association recently recognized the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and well contractors for leading the nation in successfully sealing more than 205,000 unused wells in Minnesota. The MDH will be presented with the Outstanding Ground Water Award in Ground Water Protection this December.

Bloomington's Environmental Health Division is one of 10 delegated agencies in Minnesota whose staff conducts well construction and sealing inspections. Over 5,000 Bloomington wells, mostly residential, have been sealed since 1989. City records indicate that about 6,500 properties with City water service still have wells that are not sealed.

Why is it important to seal an unused well? Wells are direct conduits to groundwater. Properly functioning, a well will supply water from an aquifer as needed. Left unused or not maintained, a well may act like a drain

and become a source of groundwater contamination. Groundwater is the source of drinking water for three out of four Minnesotans. It is a resource worth protecting. In 2005, 78 percent of the water demand in Bloomington was supplied by the City's drinking water treatment plant that derives its source water from groundwater wells located in Bloomington.

Although not all properties in Bloomington have wells, some have more than one. At the time of sale, State law requires that well locations and status (in use, not in use, sealed) be properly disclosed. State law also requires unused wells to be permanently sealed, or repaired and put back into use. If in use, an annual well maintenance permit is required. Unused wells must be sealed by MDH-licensed well contractors.

State law prohibits building modifications that make an unsealed well less accessible for repairs or sealing.



For example, a well in a basement offset must first be sealed prior to constructing an addition.

For more information, call the City's Environmental Health Division at 952-563-8934.

CITY ORDINANCE EXPANDED

TOBACCO USE PROHIBITED WITHIN CITY-OWNED PARKS

TOBACCO USE IS NOW PROHIBITED within all City-owned parks, open spaces, conservation and recreation areas. The City Council passed the ordinance in October.

The new ordinance expands an ordinance implemented in 2001 that restricts tobacco use within selected City-owned park areas including the beach, pool, play areas and spectator areas during organized youth athletic events. The new ordinance, which took effect November 1, also prohibits tobacco use within playgrounds, play lots, athletic fields, all spectator areas, outdoor areas around Bloomington Ice Garden, golf courses, picnic areas, tennis courts and all other park facilities and



property. People may smoke in their personal vehicles in parking lots.

During the past five years, 88 Minnesota cities and four counties have passed policies and ordinances restricting tobacco use within parks and recreational areas. Cities such as Edina and Golden Valley have policies similar to Bloomington's ordinance prohibiting tobacco use in parks and on golf courses.

In 2005, the University of Minnesota conducted a study about public support for tobacco-free parks. Overall, 70 percent of those surveyed supported tobacco-free policies for outdoor park and recreation areas stating that the policy would:

- Reduce litter in park grounds.
- Discourage youth smoking.
- Allow park visitors to avoid secondhand smoke.
- Establish positive role models for youth.
- Promote community well-being.

For more information, call Public Health Administrator Karen Zeleznak at 952-563-8905.



I'M OUT OF SIGHT, NOT OUT OF MIND.

If only the pipes running below our streets could talk. They might remind us that they carry the very lifeblood of our community. Tap water keeps us healthy, fights fires, supports our economy and provides us with the high quality of life we enjoy. Our water bills keep that pipe system strong and reliable. For more information, call 952-563-4905 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Water treatment.



SAFE FROM THE FAUCET

SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMY

A SAFE, RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY IS CENTRAL TO OUR COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

- Tap water is critical to the day-to-day operations of existing businesses and to the viability of new commercial enterprises or residential developments.
- From foods and beverages to toothpastes and perfumes, water is the primary ingredient in hundreds of thousands of everyday products.
- Businesses must take into consideration the availability and quality of water when determining where to locate their offices or manufacturing facilities.



ON TAP NEXT ISSUE:

Tap water is central to our everyday lives.

Presented in cooperation with



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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.

TREASURES WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED THE STORHOLMS' BLOOMINGTON RAMBLER REMODEL STORY

WHEN DON AND SHARON STORHOLM bought their 1956 rambler on West 102nd Street in 1989, it was already 33 years old.

"I had been in the real estate business years before and knew that Butler was one of the quality home builders in the 1950s," Don said. "By checking records, I was delighted to find that Butler had built our home."

The three-season porch was one of the features that appealed to them.



A space in a living room wall houses a television that can be camouflaged with a large picture.



Other bonuses included two fireplaces, extra high ceilings in the lower level, a large recreation room and hardwood floors throughout. They knew it needed some work, but saw real potential in the three-bedroom home. The stucco garage was from an even earlier era.

"At one time, it served as a summer cabin for a Minneapolis resident who traveled 'all the way to Bloomington' on dirt roads to spend weekends in the 'country,'" Sharon said.

Little by little, remodeling and redecorating projects were completed and the home began to take on a different look. Small windows on the first floor were replaced with larger thermo panes. The oak floors were restored and a space in a living room wall above an antique buffet houses a television that can be camouflaged with a large picture. Gradually, they added three bedrooms, plus a

living room and bath downstairs. Additional insulation in walls and ceilings, plus high-efficiency furnace and air systems created a more energy-efficient home.

The exterior still has the original gray cedar shakes. Cupolas and shingles with "the look of shakes" were added. A small deck was constructed in the front.



After



Before

"We bought two old-fashioned rockers from a garage sale, painted them red and placed them on the front porch to welcome visitors," Sharon said.

On summer evenings, you'll often find the Storholms sitting in the rocking chairs contemplating their next project.

Contributed by Sharon Storholm.

TURNING TRADITION ON ITS EAR 1950s RAMBLER BEFORE AND AFTER

PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE giving their ramblers a new look. Dan and Jennifer Harrison live on a street known as Doctor's Row in a traditional-looking ranch house in Anaheim, California. The 2,600-square-foot home has two enormous bedrooms, a similarly spacious living room and kitchen, and a more typical-size dining room and den. Two baths in virtually original condition, plenty of storage, a pool and a bonus room in the garage convinced the young couple that this was the ideal place to raise a family.

The 1954 home seemingly cried out for traditional furnishings with its wall-to-wall beige carpet, crown molding, brick fireplace and double-hung windows. But Jen and Dan had accumulated lots of vintage collectibles and loved industrial-strength color,

something they displayed to great advantage in their previous house, a 1920s bungalow. The ranch's large room dimensions and earth-toned décor proved challenging, but the transformation from moving day to today is stunning.

Jen figured she could just import her favorite hues to the new house. "I liked our bungalow colors so much that I thought I'd just bring them here," she says. "But nothing that was tried and true worked."

The living room was a particular puzzle. "Every paint color was way too light; it looked like a fishbowl," says Dan. "We tried sea-foam green, peach and light blue. A friend suggested this purple color, which we thought would be way too dark. But we started thinking that the room is really well lit during the day, plus it's huge. If you paint a small room dark it's going to feel like the walls are caving in, but in a big room, why not give it a shot."

Their furniture and collections run from Fiesta pottery and Bauerware to vintage Heywood Wakefield in the dining room and retro-style new chairs in the living room. The color of an aqua and white vinyl couch reminiscent of a 1950s Cadillac is picked up in the dining



After

The Harrisons spiced up this spacious living room.



Before

room walls, decorative pottery and Todd Oldham chair and ottoman. "We like the '30s, '40s, '50s and the '60s, and things that are brand new," Dan explains. "We want to be comfortable and for it to feel like a home, not a museum."

The Harrisons preach their new love of midcentury to everyone they can. After visitors say, "Wow!" in response to the vibrant interior, they invariably start noticing the rambler details they never before considered noteworthy. "Anyone from the historical society who comes over loves the house," Dan says. "They recognize it as being significant. It's not a cookie-cutter home that you would have seen built in the '70s or '80s."

"People said our bungalow was Pee-Wee's Playhouse; this house is like 'Toontown grows up,'" Jen notes with pride.

ZONING ORDINANCE PARKING UPDATE REVISED CITYWIDE STANDARDS

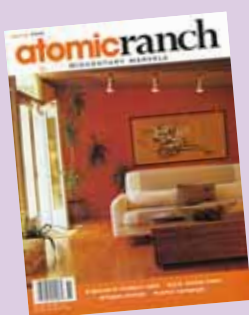
THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PLANNING staff has been working with the City Council to update parking standards citywide. The existing standards were largely written in the 1950s and are being updated to reflect the current and future needs of the city.



Some of the revisions to the ordinance include updated minimum off-street parking requirements for residential and nonresidential uses; off-street parking flexibility measures, such as shared parking arrangements; and amended requirements for single-family and two-family residential driveways.

For more information, contact the Planning Division at 952-563-8920, e-mail planning@ci.bloomington.mn.us, or visit the City's web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Parking standards.

LEARN MORE ABOUT RAMBLERS



Michelle Gringeri-Brown and Jim Brown formerly lived in Edina in a postwar rambler.

They publish *Atomic Ranch*, a quarterly magazine devoted to mid-century homes. For information, visit www.atomic-ranch.com.

FREE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT IN BLOOMINGTON CREEKSIDE'S COUNTRY WESTERN MUSIC JAM

ON SATURDAY MORNINGS, 15 TO 20 vehicles pull up behind Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. Musicians unload guitars, drums, keyboards, ukuleles and accordions to set up for the weekly "Country Western Music Jam." No one in this group is paid; they volunteer their talents for the large audience that turns up week after week to enjoy the music. Many senior citizens take part, but there are also younger folks who participate.



Emcee Mack Sirois explains how the group formed about 50 years ago



when several aspiring young musicians would meet to jam on Saturday mornings at Suneson's Music Store in Minneapolis. Sirois mixes introductions with jokes and special compliments for the tasty snacks and coffee served. Nicknames are common. Players answer to Southern Bob, California Dave, Mayor of Upsala, Country Norma, Northern Bob, Keyboard Jerry, Mr. Bones and Harmonica Don.

In addition to the lively music, many in the band and audience come forward to sing a favorite tune. The Parker brothers, Frank and Gordy, often step up to sing or yodel. Later, Frank and his wife Marge may decide to sing a duet. Harmonica Don can make his instrument "sing" just about any song you can think of. When Keyboard Jerry plays "Roll out the Barrel," the audience shows enthusiastic appreciation. Drummer Terry maintains an upbeat tempo for each tune.

People come from all over the Twin Cities to enjoy the free entertainment. Sing, listen or play along; everyone is welcome to participate. One thing's for sure, on **Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, Creekside rocks with country music. Come check it out. You'll have a great time.

Contributed by Sharon Storholm.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOOMINGTON CITIZENS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

LARRY YAZZIE AWARDED HUMAN RIGHTS HONOR



NATIVE PRIDE DANCER LARRY YAZZIE will be honored with the 2006 Omar Bonderud Award at a City Council meeting in December.

Yazzie, an international lecturer, educator, performer and a world champion fancy dancer, was raised on the Meskwaki Indian Settlement in central Iowa and began dancing at the age of seven. During his childhood, Yazzie was taught the traditions of the Meskwaki people, including the fancy dance and the Northern Plains style of singing. Combining entertainment with education, Yazzie performs for a variety of audiences including K-12 students, colleges and universities, corporate gatherings and community festivals. Yazzie is dedicated to understanding and promoting bridge-building through traditional and cultural diversity worldwide.

"I want to share my gift with others and challenge people to learn about other cultures that exist right here in America," Yazzie said.

The Omar Bonderud Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to ensuring the rights of people in the community. For more information, call 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740, or visit the City of Bloomington's website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Bonderud.

BOB PETERS SELECTED AS LEGACY AWARD WINNER



BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER AND community volunteer Bob Peters was presented with the Bloomington Community Foundation Legacy Award in November.

Peters, a person with quadriplegia as the result of a shallow-water diving accident in 1964, has been involved in local, state and national activities and numerous organizations that seek to improve the lives of people with disabilities. He is also actively involved in promoting diversity awareness and communications. Peters is currently a member of the Bloomington Disability Employment Awareness Committee and Bloomington School District 271's K-6 Disability Awareness Committee. He is also a nationally known freelance writer of disability-related travel articles.

The Legacy Award is presented annually to an outstanding Bloomington citizen who demonstrates community leadership, exhibits high ethical standards, illustrates ongoing support for community projects and addresses community challenges. For more information on the Bloomington Community Foundation, call 952-896-3270 or visit www.bloomington-mn.org, Keywords: Clubs and Organizations.

TED NEMZEK RECEIVES ELEVEN WHO CARE AWARD

"IF YOU BELIEVE IN IT, YOU SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN it," said former Human Rights Commissioner Ted Nemzek who is a KARE 11 Eleven Who Care Award recipient for 2006.

A 14-year volunteer with the Bloomington School District Learning Exchange, Nemzek has spent many hours working with adults with developmental disabilities in various classes and through theater productions. Nemzek has also been involved with the Memorial Rifle Squad at Fort Snelling National Cemetery over the past decade. Serving as both Commander and Vice Commander, he has participated in more than 4,000 funerals for veterans buried at Fort Snelling. He is an on-call volunteer with the Vietnam Honor Guard and travels to various cemeteries. In October, the Bloomington City Council presented Nemzek with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his volunteer efforts.

If you would like to become a volunteer, call 952-563-4957 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: volunteer.



HERE FOR YOU

HUMAN SERVICES HELP LINE YOUR CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

HUMAN SERVICES HELP LINE provides information related to housing, financial assistance, health insurance, legal services, childcare and volunteer opportunities for people who live, work or attend school in Bloomington. Staff can help clarify your request, discuss possible resources and help you get connected to appropriate resources. Community resource catalogs, Health Care Choices booklets and senior housing directories are also available. For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY or visit Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. Hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

BLOOMINGTON SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION (BSCO) TASTE OF JAPAN – A FUN, CULTURAL EVENT



JOIN THE BLOOMINGTON SISTER CITY Organization for an evening of cultural fun, food and festivities for the whole family at Taste of Japan on **Saturday, March 3**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza. For more information, call 952-563-8735.

BSCO HOSTS TWIN CITIES MARATHON RUNNER

FOR THE second year in a row, the BSCO hosted a runner from Izumi City, Japan, to run in the Twin Cities



Marathon. Tomoyuki Kinoshita, pictured above, a student at the University of St. Andrews in Japan, ran the Twin Cities Marathon in October in a time of 2:42:37. He finished 56th overall. Runners from Bloomington have been participating in the International Senshu Marathon in Izumi City since 1996.

COMMUTER CHALLENGE RESULTS GREAT JOB, BLOOMINGTON EMPLOYEES AND BUSINESSES!

THEY CARPOOLED, RODE THE BUS, BICYCLED and walked to work – 2,665 Bloomington commuters made the pledge to try an alternative to driving alone during the 2006 Commuter Challenge. More than 10,500 metro-area individuals and 300 employers participated in the challenge. Based on Bloomington pledges alone, the Commuter Challenge led to a decrease of almost 192,000 miles of travel. Great job, Bloomington residents, workers and businesses!



For the last 10 years, resident Tim Wuennecke, *photo left*, has biked to work three to four times a week, six months out of the year. Wuennecke, whose employer Supervalu in Eden Prairie provides showers and bike racks for bicycle commuters, said, “I love that I can exercise and get to work at the same time.” Wuennecke won a box suite at a Twins game .



Mayor Winstead, second from the left, accepts Commuter Challenge award.

Last March, the I-494 Corridor Commission challenged its six member cities to see which city could achieve the highest number of people who pledged to bicycle to work during the Commuter Challenge. With 463 commuters making the pledge, Bloomington rode away with the first-place award for achievement in bicycle commuting. Bloomington residents and workers accounted for 25 percent of all Commuter Challenge pledges. The I-494 Corridor Commission’s Executive Director Melissa Madison, along with Jim Sorensen, co-founder of Two Wheels to Town, and Pat Sorensen, President of Penn Cycle, presented Bloomington’s award to Mayor Gene Winstead at an October Council meeting. *See photo left.*

EARTH ACTION HERO BIODIESEL MAN

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it’s saving energy or guarding Bloomington’s natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...

IN KEEPING OUR AIR CLEAN AND TRYING to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, Bloomington resident Michael Weber is doing his part. Last spring, Weber bought a used Volkswagen diesel and began running his car on close to 100 percent biodiesel, a fuel derived from processed oil most commonly from soybeans.

“It’s a great change and the fuel is made and produced by Minnesota farmers,” Weber said. “CO₂ emissions are reduced, which lowers greenhouse gas emissions by 78 percent.”

According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), using alternative fuels such as electricity, ethanol and biodiesel in vehicles can generally reduce harmful pollutants and exhaust emissions. In

addition, the DOE says that most of these fuels can be produced domestically and derived from renewable sources.

Like other alternative fuel options, there are downsides to biodiesel. Fuel and chemicals are used to harvest soybeans and, at this time, there is limited fuel availability. Weber knows of only two gas stations near Bloomington that sell biodiesel, but is hopeful that more are coming online. However, Weber notes that there is some versatility to using the alternative fuel.

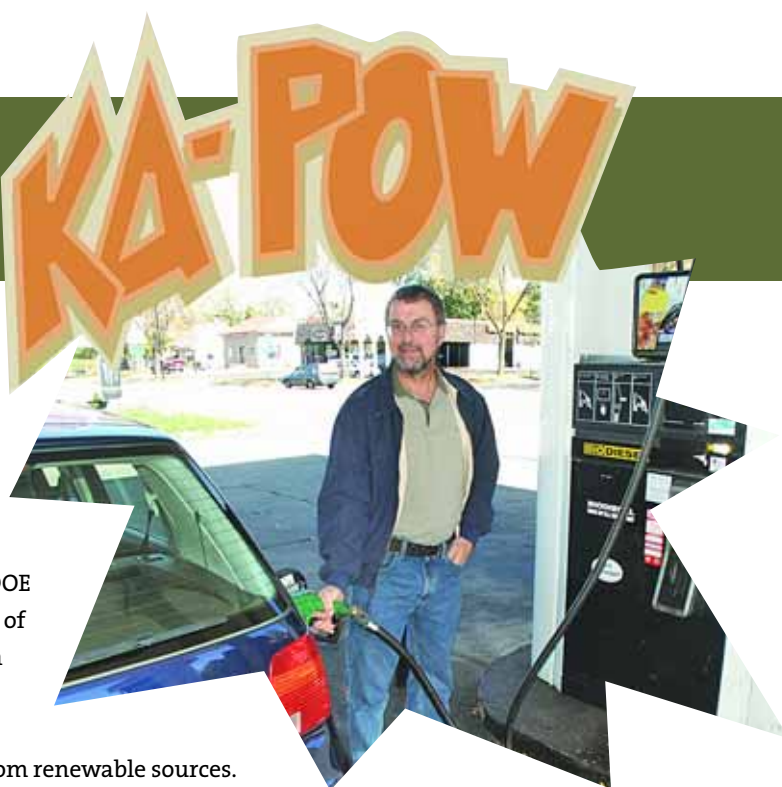
“I didn’t have to convert or alter my engine at all,” Weber said. “If I can’t find a gas station that offers biodiesel, my car will run on regular diesel.”

According to Weber, one of the biggest advantages of choosing diesel is fuel economy. Though the cost of biodiesel may be a little more than traditional diesel, Weber estimates that he saves \$125 to \$150 per month in fuel costs. He gets around 44 miles per gallon (mpg) in the city and 55 mpg on the highway.

“This past summer, I took a trip to New York City and I only had to stop and fill up twice,” Weber said. “I drove 770 miles on one tank of fuel.”



Weber averages 44 miles per gallon in the city using biodiesel fuel.



As part of a cleaner air incentive, the 2005 Minnesota Legislature mandated that all diesel fuel sold or offered for sale in the state must contain at least two percent biodiesel fuel by volume. Hennepin County started using a 5 percent blend of biodiesel fuel in 2003. Experts agree that blends of up to 5 percent are safe for vehicle engines. However, if you are considering using 100 percent biodiesel, check with your vehicle’s manufacturer to ensure that you don’t void the manufacturer’s warranty.



UPCOMING TREE SALE

To increase the number of trees on residential properties, the City holds a tree sale each spring. In 2006, approximately 180 trees were sold. The City also plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington’s urban forest continues to be one of the community’s many treasures. Look for the tree order form in the February *Briefing*. For more information, call Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8762.



GO-TO COLLEGE PASS NORMANDALE STUDENTS ON BOARD WITH MASS TRANSIT

METRO TRANSIT IMPLEMENTED A reduced-cost transit pass test program this fall for students at 11 metropolitan area colleges. During the first month, Normandale Community College students purchased 219 Go-To College passes (45 percent of the total passes sold at the 11 colleges) and were responsible for more than half of all the resulting transit ridership.

“The transit use incentive has been well received at Normandale and participation at this level will help strengthen the long-term viability of Bloomington’s transit routes,” said Community Development Director Larry Lee. “This is also an example of good work by the I-494 Corridor Commission for its role in getting this program extended to the school during the first year.”

IT’S COLD OUTSIDE PROTECT YOUR TREES

FRIGID TEMPERATURES, ICY WINDS AND snow can cause major stress for trees. Help your trees through the cold months and you will be rewarded in the spring.

- Put a blanket of mulch around the base of your tree to help retain water and protect the tree’s roots.
- If temperatures permit, an occasional watering during the winter on young trees can be a lifesaver. Water only when soil and trees are cool but not frozen.
- Prune. Winter is one of the best times to prune because it is easier to see the structure of trees without their leaves. Limit pruning to dead wood and poorly placed branches.
- Prevent mechanical injuries. Branch breakage or splitting can be caused by ice and snow accumulation, or chewing and rubbing by animals. Wrap the base of young trees in a hard, plastic guard or a metal hardware cloth. Remember to remove the wraps and guards in the spring to prevent damage when the tree begins to grow.

Source: The International Society of Arboriculture.



CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS.

TENNIS LESSONS

INDOOR WINTER TENNIS LESSONS WILL be offered in collaboration with Northwest Athletic Club. For more information or to register, call Parks and Recreation.

Times: *Beginner* 7 - 8 p.m.
Intermediate 8 - 9 p.m.
Where: 98th St. Northwest Athletic Club, 1001 W. 98th St.

DAYTIME VOLLEYBALL

ALL GAMES ARE PLAYED AT THE Bloomington Armory, 3300 W. 98th St. Feel free to show up alone; teams are formed on the spot each week.
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning January 2.
Times: *Beginner* 9 - 11 a.m.
Intermediate 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cost: \$1.50 each session.

BLOOMINGTON LOVES ITS KIDS FEBRUARY CELEBRATION

THIS MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION OF Bloomington's youth combines community and family fun with educational programs and ceremonies to honor organizations that help kids and kids who help others. Parks and Recreation, Bloomington Public Schools, Northwestern Health Sciences University and community groups call upon residents to participate. The BLIK recognition committee is looking for nominations of youth, grades 4 - 12, or groups of young people who have benefited the community by helping others, or a volunteer organization or group that has done something special for Bloomington kids. For a nomination form or information, call 952-563-8877 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: BLIK.

COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

When: Saturday, February 24
12:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Where: Northwestern Health Sciences University, 84th and Penn Ave.
The carnival includes exhibits, entertainment, multi-cultural event, preschool play area and much more!

YOUTH SPORTS

FOR FUN, YOUTH WINTER SPORTS opportunities, call the Bloomington Athletic Association's Information Hotline at 952-888-0807 or visit www.baaonline.org.

A NEW CITY PROGRAM YOU WILL FLIP FOR L'IL FLIPSTERS GYMNASTICS

GYMNASTICS FOR KIDS TWO-AND-A-HALF years to kindergarten is taught by an outstanding instructor from L'il Flipsters Gymnastics. The program is a great opportunity to improve strength, coordination and balance for all children. Monthly sessions are held during the day. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS IMPROVEMENTS

BLOOMINGTON CELEBRATES THREE PARK OPENINGS

WHETHER YOU LIKE TO PLAY OR RELAX, PARKS ARE ONE OF THE COMMUNITY'S greatest assets. This past fall, the city celebrated three park openings.

BLOOMINGTON CENTRAL STATION

A 1.6-ACRE PARK, DESIGNED TO complement the surrounding architecture, will be located at the center of the Bloomington Central Station development. The park is a place-making feature for the development in the area, creating a space for people to gather. Proposed amenities include seating areas, garden rooms, water features, and paved and lighted walkways.

Construction of the \$3.5 million park will be funded with \$800,000 in transit-oriented development grants from Hennepin County and \$2.7 million in grants from the Metropolitan Council. The public park will be maintained and operated by the developer, McGough. The park was completed in October, although some final finish work may occur this spring.



LYNDALE GREEN PARK

LYNDALE GREEN PARK, 84th Street and Lyndale Avenue, features an arbor, seating plaza, paved walkways, natural gardens, a swinging bench and open lawn. The one-acre public park, part of the Lyndale Green redevelopment, is a cooperative effort between Bloomington-based United Properties, the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the City of Bloomington. United Properties contributed \$150,000 toward construction costs for the \$300,000 project. United Properties supervised the park's construction and agreed to share future maintenance costs. A park dedication ceremony was held in September.



CEDARCREST PARK

A PARK DEDICATION AND GRAND reopening was held at Cedarcrest Park, 86th Street and Bloomington Avenue, in October. Improvements included installation of a water play area, playground equipment, tennis and basketball courts, paved walkways, picnic tables, benches and landscaping. Replacement of the softball field is proposed for the future. Cost of improvements was \$298,000. The project was a cooperative effort between Cedar Valley Church and the City of Bloomington.



PICNIC SHELTERS ARE GREAT FOR GATHERINGS

PICNIC SHELTERS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE TO RENT FOR NEXT YEAR'S picnics, receptions, reunions or meetings. Registration begins January 2 for use April through mid-October. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. In addition, City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, walking trails and softball fields. Reduced rates are available for nonprofit Bloomington youth groups.



PROPOSED* RENTAL RATES					
MOIR PARK		WEST BUSH LAKE PARK		EAST BUSH LAKE PARK	
104th St. at Morgan Ave.		94th St. at West Bush Lake Rd.		9140 East Bush Lake Rd.	
Shelter 1:	Accommodates 200+.	Shelter 1:	Accommodates 240.	Shelter 3:	Accommodates 200.
	\$190 + tax.		\$190 + tax.		\$250 + tax.
Shelter 2:	Accommodates 50.	Shelter 2:	Accommodates 150.	SMITH PARK	
	\$130 + tax.		\$130 + tax.	8155 Park Ave. S.	
				Shelter:	Accommodates 30.
					\$82 + tax.
*Subject to City Council approval, December 2006.					

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND OLD Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts houses eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City’s Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Calendar.

EXHIBITIONS

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER

952-563-8587



Foshay Tower as a Trophy, acrylic, by Erik Sletten.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

Impossible Buildings, featuring artists Aldo Moroni and Erik Sletten, runs **December 8 - January 5**. Artist’s reception is Friday, December 8, 6 - 8 p.m.

Naturally Inspired, featuring artists Eleanor McGough and Eun-Kyung Suh, runs **January 12 - February 16**. Artists reception is Friday, January 12, 6 - 8 p.m.



On the Patio, acrylic by Eleanor McGough.

ATRIUM GALLERY, SECOND FLOOR

Twenty Tails of Jesse and Boo, featuring art and literature for adults and children by Daniel Buettner, runs **through December 15**.

Imaginism: The ‘ISM’ You Interpret, featuring artist Kyle Rehm, runs **January 4 - February 11**. Artist talk and demonstration is Friday, January 12, 6 - 8 p.m.

BLACK BOX THEATER

GOING MY WAY

Radio Theater Live! presents this classical Christmas story **Thursdays - Saturdays, December 7 - 17, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sundays, 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$15 adults; \$12 seniors/students, \$12 adults/groups of 12 or more on Thursday. For more information, call 952-563-8587.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

THURSDAY MUSICAL
SERVING THE COMMUNITY
THROUGH MUSIC

Outstanding Twin Cities musicians perform classical music on **Thursdays, December 14, January 11 and 25, and February 8 and 22, 10:30 a.m.** Tickets are \$10 at the door. Season tickets include 15 concerts for \$60; \$50 seniors, age 65 and older. For information, call 612-333-0313 or visit www.thursdaymusical.com.

BLOOMINGTON CHORALE
CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD



The Christmas portion of Handel’s Messiah, along with an array of international carols, will be performed on **Saturday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sunday, December 17, 3 p.m.** Tickets are \$12 adults, \$8 students/seniors. For ticket information, call 952-563-8575.

A FAMILY AFFAIR!
STRING ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

Bloomington natives Kari Jane Docter, cellist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Kirsten Docter, violist with the Cavani String Quartet, and Bruno Eicher, violinist and assistant concert master of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, perform **Saturday, January 7, 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$19 adults, \$16 students/seniors. For tickets, call 952-563-8575.

CHRISTINE ROSHOLT
MY SHINING HOUR: THE MUSIC OF
HAROLD ARLEN

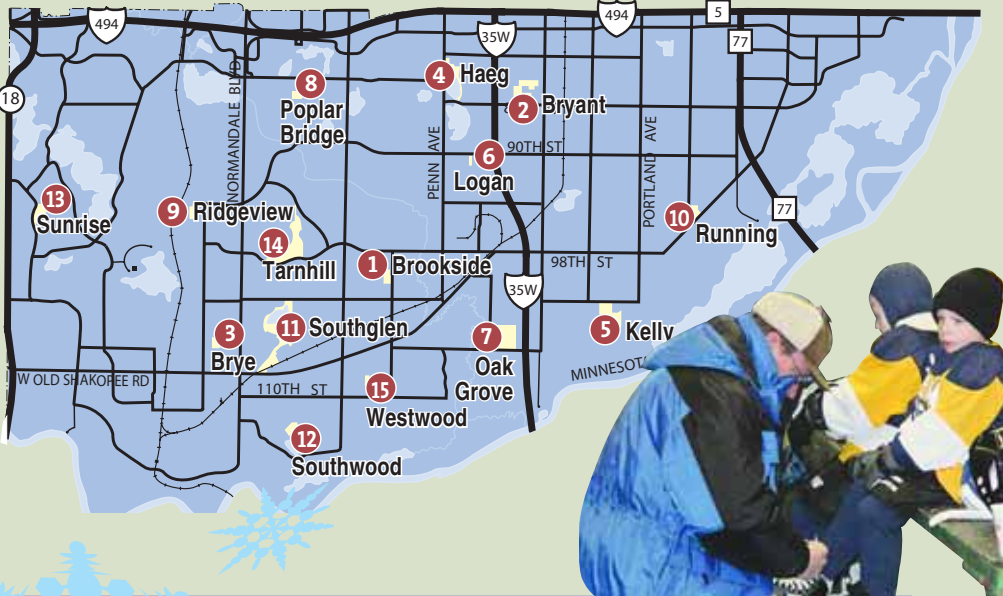
Vocalists Christine Rosholt, Connie Olson and Bruce A. Henry join Rick Carlson, piano, Keith Boyles, bass, and Jay Epstein, drums, to present the music of Harold Arlen on **Sunday, January 14, 2 p.m.** Arlen wrote classics including “Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive,” “Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea,” and the songs from the *Wizard of Oz*. Tickets are \$19 adults, \$16 students/seniors. For ticket information, call 952-563-8575.

The Note-able Singers welcomed seven new members in September. Enthusiasm is high as they prepare for Christmas concerts in the community. For information about auditions or to book a show, call 952-831-1662.

2006 - 2007 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS

PARKS AND RECREATION WILL OPERATE 15 OUTDOOR ICE SKATING SITES THIS WINTER.

new During rink hours, all facilities will be lighted except for Logan playlot. Some sites are supervised by a Parks and Recreation employee during public skating hours. *See below.* Weather permitting, **park shelters will be open Monday, December 18, 2006, through Sunday, February 11, 2007.** For more information, call 952-563-8877. For up-to-date rink conditions and closings, call 952-563-8878 and select option 1.



LOCATIONS AND FEATURES

PARK	ADDRESS	STAFFING	RINK		
			General	Hockey	Floodlights
1 Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	Every day	•	•	•
2 Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	Every day	•	•	•
3 Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	Every day	•	•	•
4 Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.	Tuesdays	•	•	•
5 Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	Mondays	•	•	•
6 Logan	1900 W. 91st St.	Not staffed	•		
7 Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.	Every day	•	•	•
8 Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	Wednesdays	•	•	•
9 Ridgeview	6001 W. 94th St.	Thursdays	•	•	•
10 Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	Every day	•	2	•
11 Southglen	10701 Rich Road	Fridays	•	•	•
12 Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.	Every day	•	•	•
13 Sunrise	9401 Blmgt. Ferry Rd.	Every day	•	•	•
14 Tarnhill	9650 Little Road	Not staffed	•	•	•
15 Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	Every day	•	2	•

RINK HOURS

DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	HOLIDAY
	December 18 - 22, 2006 January 3 - February 11, 2007	December 23, 2006 - January 2, 2007
M - F	4 - 9 p.m.	Noon - 9 p.m.
Sa - Su	Noon - 9 p.m.	Noon - 9 p.m.
December 24, 2006	All park shelters closed. No lights.	
December 25, 2006	All park shelters closed. No lights.	
December 31, 2006	All shelters that are staffed every day are open 1 - 5 p.m.	
January 1, 2007	All park shelters closed. No lights.	



BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN
INDOOR SKATING RINKS

THE BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN (BIG), 3600 W. 98th St., has three indoor ice rinks available for public skating and adult open hockey. Professionally trained instructors offer a variety of skating lessons for children and adults. For more information, call 952-563-8842, or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: BIG.



LRT IMPROVEMENTS IN AIRPORT SOUTH
PARKING STRUCTURE AND LRT STATION PLANNED

THE HIAWATHA LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT runs through Bloomington’s Airport South District, one of the fastest developing areas in the region. The \$700 million Bloomington Central Station redevelopment and the Mall of America’s second phase are two significant projects underway. A new parking structure and additional LRT station are planned improvements that will further encourage higher-density, mixed-use growth in the surrounding area.

A 1,450-space, five-level parking structure at the heavily used 28th Avenue Station park-and-ride lot is scheduled for construction this spring. The parking ramp will replace the 362-space surface parking lot on the south side of the station that is filled to capacity on weekdays. The new structure will also contain 2,000 square feet of retail space to be leased at a later date.



Metro Transit plans to provide temporary parking spaces on an adjacent property during ramp construction. The Bloomington Port Authority will issue bonds for construction of the \$24 million parking ramp scheduled for completion by fall 2008.

An additional LRT station at the intersection of 34th Avenue and American Boulevard could be put into service as soon as 2008. Original plans of the Hiawatha Line included the 34th Avenue Station, but the plan was modified when the light-rail transit realignment put a station directly at the Mall of America. Because preliminary work was done during initial construction of the light-rail line, a new station could be added without interrupting service. After submitting a joint application last year, the Metropolitan Council and the City of Bloomington were awarded federal funds to assist with the construction of the 34th Avenue Station as well as the park-and-ride ramp at the 28th Avenue Station. For information, call Julie Farnham at 952-563-4739.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

IN MEMORIAM – AUGUST (GUS) WELTER



Minnesota Historical Society



AUGUST (GUS) WELTER, BLOOMINGTON’S FIRST ASSISTANT Fire Chief, passed away in October. The Bloomington Fire Department began with an organizational meeting held in Welter’s heating and air conditioning shop on February 14, 1947. Welter, Roy Donkersgood, Carl Christensen and Bob Smith purchased the land at 95th Street and Syndicate Avenue from the Town Council for \$1 to construct Bloomington’s first fire station. With Welter’s help, the Bloomington Fire Department became one of the finest all-volunteer fire departments in the country. After he retired from active service, Welter served with the National Volunteer Fire Council. In 1990, the Council presented Welter with the Lifetime Achievement and Firefighter of the Year awards.

TURN YOUR HOUSE INTO YOUR DREAM HOME
LOW-INTEREST HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS AVAILABLE

THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will be accepting applications from late January through March 30, 2007, for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at an annual rate of 5 percent of the original loan principal for the first 10 years. No additional interest accrues after 10 years.

A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

Loans are offered to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods. Applications are ranked and processed according to need.

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must be the owner-occupant of your home and have sufficient equity to cover the loan amount. *Income guidelines apply. See table below right.*

BEFORE



AFTER



Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 30. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL EVENT COVERAGE



“I noticed Bloomington Police Officers directing traffic at a recent race event. Does this create a shortage of police officers? Who pays for this service?”
A Bloomington resident

MOST PRIVATE EVENTS WITHIN Bloomington that require police services are staffed by Bloomington police officers working contractual overtime. Because officers working contractual overtime are assigned from a list of volunteers who work these events beyond their regular duty assignments, there is no impact to on-duty staffing. The event sponsors pay the officers an hourly rate, in addition to administrative fees, to cover all costs incurred. The Mall of America also pays for officers who work traffic detail at the mall.

- Eligible repairs**
- Replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems.
 - Gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia.
 - Exterior painting.
 - Foundation, sidewalk or steps.
- Ineligible repairs**
- Decorating.
 - Additions.
 - Finishing basements.
 - Remodeling.
 - Garage construction.

INCOME GUIDELINES

Persons in household*	Maximum gross income**
1	\$41,700
2	\$47,700
3	\$53,650
4	\$59,600
5	\$64,350
6	\$69,150
7	\$73,900
8 or more	\$78,650

* Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters.
** Subject to change.